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IN WOMAN'S BEHALF.

SUFFERERS BY THE LAW.

Women Have no Voice in Legislation Which Concerns Them Equally With Men.

The question of marriage and divorce laws and their reformation, says Mrs. Livermore, is one in which women are vitally interested, for they are generally the deepest sufferers from the laws' immoral and unequal action, and for them there is the least redress. Whatever legislation may be undertaken, whether by concerted action or through a national constitutional amendment, concerns both sexes equally, and both should have equal influence in directing it. Very many of the evils that have sprung up in the marriage relation have originated in the fact that one sex has been the sole dictator of laws which concern both equally. Men have made the laws of marriage and divorce, and women have never been consulted as to their wisdom or adaptability to women's own circumstances, or their approval of them. The husband has legal control of the person of the wife; her services belong to him, and have no money value. She is expected to work for food, shelter and clothing, and is thus made a pauperized dependent on her husband. Whatever gains accrue from her unpaid labor become his property. If she has leisure and ability to engage in money-making employments after performing the household labor, many of the States of the Union give her earnings also to her husband. Four women of prominence in literary and professional life, whose names would be familiar to most of my readers, have been compelled to apply to the courts for protection against their husbands who would have robbed them of their earnings, while they were charged with the maintenance and education of the children. The impecunious condition of wives, not alone among those whose husbands are men of small incomes, but among many whose means are ample, is one of the most fruitful sources of restlessness and unhappiness in married life, and is one of the underlying causes of frequent divorce. Only six of the United States allow a married mother to be an equal owner and guardian of the minor children with their father. In all other States the father is their sole owner and guardian. If the mother has no ownership in her little children, whom she wins in the valley of death, at the risk of her own life, she is indeed pauperized, most abject, most wretched. Ah, if men were not, in most instances, better than the laws they have made for women, this world would be Pandemonium itself!

A wife and mother should always be mistress of herself, and never the slave of another, not even when that other is her husband and the slavery is founded on her undying love. "Give your child to be educated by a slave," said the old Greek, "and instead of one slave, you will then have two." There should be legal equality established between the husband and the wife, equal ownership of the family property, equal guardianship of the minor children. For more than a quarter of a century I have been so situated that I have been the recipient of the confidences of wives and mothers to a very large extent. If I should publish the sad stories of injustice, wrong and outrage of which they have been the silent victims, perpetrated under cover of laws made by men for the government of both sexes in married life, by husbands who intend to be in the main fair and just, I should startle the community. "No ordinary man," said John Stuart Mill, years ago, "is willing to find at his fireside an equal in the person he calls his wife." Have we outgrown the narrowness of the day when these words were penned? Are men now just enough to counsel with women in formulating a code of laws that shall bear equally on husband and wife? Are they prepared to convert into living verity the axiom of our great Bill of Rights, which declares that "all just governments derive their power from the consent of the governed?" Then, indeed, is a better day about to dawn on the world—a statelier Eden will come again to man. If not, then reformation of our laws of marriage and divorce must tarry yet longer for the tardy advent of the day when a man will see in woman his other half, equal but diverse, who will be his best helper and his divinest friend, when he elevates her to the same plane of equality with himself, and forbids her to be fettered even by a gossamer.

MANIFEST MALICE. Misstatements Made Concerning Woman Suffrage in Wyoming. Now that there is every prospect that Wyoming will shortly be admitted as a State, with its women exercising full citizenship, the papers in New York and other Eastern cities are beginning to print letters, ostensibly from the Territory, which contain statements going to prove that woman suffrage is a failure there. The N. Y. Sun recently contained such an article. The first statement is that: "Notwithstanding her right to vote, woman's influence is of little weight at the polls. Men go to the primaries, make up the tickets, and furnish the ballots to the women voters, who go to the polls in cabs, deposit their votes, and are quietly driven home again. After the first excitement and novelty were over, women manifested little interest in voting, and their disfranchisement would be met with passivity and little or no opposition on their part." I was in Wyoming only a little over a year ago, writes Lilly Devereaux Blake, in Woman's Journal, and met during my stay in Laramie and Cheyenne many of the leading women of these places. I can, of my own personal knowledge, testify to the falsity of these allegations. That woman's influence at the polls should be less important than man's is not surprising when it is remembered that the men outnumber the women seven to one. Of course, as men cast seven times as many votes as women, they are seven times as important in effecting the results. Men naturally form a large proportion of the audiences at all public meetings; but to declare

that women feel no interest in politics and would submit to disfranchisement with indifference, is wholly incorrect. All the women with whom I conversed expressed great interest in politics, and showed an intelligence in regard to local affairs and officials which I have never met among women who did not vote. They were eagerly interested in the hope for Statehood, and their many meetings held this summer to enforce their demand for the guarantee of their freedom in the new constitution is proof of their zealous care of their own interests.

Other statements are that women as jurors were "unsatisfactory." Whereas Judges Hoyt, Kingman, and other jurists in whose courts women have served as jurors, are emphatic in declaring that they were admirable in their conduct. Indeed, the next assertion of the anonymous writer proves his ignorance of the whole question, for he describes jurywomen as weeping for the babies from whom they were separated, when every one in Wyoming knows that women with young families were never called on for jury duty. Mrs. Esther Morris, the famous woman justice of the peace, is quoted, not over her own name, but only by her title, as not favoring woman suffrage. Now I saw Mrs. Morris and had a long talk with her while in Cheyenne, and she emphatically approved of all that has been done for her sex. She wished that women were more active in politics, but admitted that where they were so outnumbered by men they were not likely to do very much.

The article closes by declaring that the laws are no better for women in Wyoming than in adjoining States. In some respects this is true, since the laws in many of the Western States are so liberal for women that they could hardly be improved; but the Territory has one law on its statute books which has no counterpart in any State, and that is the law securing equal pay for equal work to women and men as school-teachers.

The final slur is an intimation that women are no better off industrially here than elsewhere. In any State where there are so few women among so many men, it is natural to find nearly all the women occupied in their domestic duties; but, as a fact, women do hold high positions. They have been clerks in the Legislature, State Librarians, etc. The clerk in the Secretary of State's office is a brilliant young lady, and women hold other positions not filled by women in less favored States.

Womanly Principle.

In America, certainly, most of the prominent advocates of equal rights are themselves married women and mothers of families. They are far enough from setting up as the goal of their wishes a state of society in which the majority of women shall be spinsters and bread-winners. They believe that every girl should receive a training which will enable her to be a bread-winner in case of need, because matrimony is uncertain, and also because, as Margaret Fuller said, "in order to give her hand with dignity, she must be able to stand alone." They regret the social conditions which make it impossible for so many women to contract an honorable and happy marriage. But they do not, with Mr. Grant Allen, regard an unmarried woman as necessarily "unsexed," "defeminized," "an abnormality," etc. On the contrary, they hold that the woman who prefers to live unmarried rather than to marry without love gives proof of her good principles and her essential womanliness.—Woman's Journal.

IN WOMAN'S WORLD.

A TYPE-WRITER'S Union has lately been organized among women in London, to prevent the lowering of wages. The crowning glory of the gains of 1889 is, that Wyoming has ratified her Woman Suffrage State Constitution by a vote of eight to one.

The Kentucky University, at Lexington, has just opened its doors to women, owing to the efforts of the Kentucky Equal Rights Association. It has now twenty young women enrolled. "The World was Made for Woman. Also," has been adopted as the motto of the Sorosis Club of Bombay. The club was recently given a reception by Mrs. Scott, wife of the Chief-Justice.

THERE are thirteen societies of working women, or Women's Trades' Unions, in London. Of these the Matchmakers', established July, 1888, is the largest. It has 700 members. The Bookbinders', the oldest union, has about 200 members.

THE Association of Collegiate Alumnae has now 1,070 members. They are distributed among thirty-five States of the Union, as well as England, France, Germany, Burma, China and Japan. Verily, the college girl is abroad in the land, and will soon be abroad in all lands.

MISS LIZZIE BLACKWELL and Miss M. B. McKenzie, two fine type-setters, found their paper, the Scott County Register, of Forest, Miss., suspended, and their town without a local journal. They have bravely seized the opportunity, and, as editor and publisher, send out as good a county paper as there is in the State.

A SOCIETY has been formed by the women in Ceylon, to promote education among the women of that island. Its chief aim, however, is the formation of a bond of sympathy with the women of all classes. Owing to the caste system, many intelligent women find it difficult to obtain a footing in native society. This new association attempts to offer one platform where all women may unite.

THE women of Milford, Me., began building a town hall two years ago, and, as a result of their labor, a new structure now stands nearly finished, and is supplied with all the necessary rooms for the town government, with a well-equipped kitchen beside. They raised most of their funds by fairs, oyster suppers, and other entertainments. The Springfield Republican says: "Nothing is known of the men of this town, but it is certain that the women have a hand in the management of affairs—even if they do not possess the ballot."



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